

29 June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Changing the academy day: Consultation

Apologies for writing this so late in the term but as explained in the letter of 28 May 2021 we have been working hard to find a solution to the current dining room situation. I am pleased to say that we have a temporary solution in place for September, which has been agreed with the Junior School, and then hope to put a more permanent solution in place following necessary survey and building works.

Therefore, I am writing to you as part of a consultation process to make changes to the academy day at Outwood Academy Hasland Hall from September 2021. The changes, alongside the rationale for change and timescales are set out below.

You may be aware that a unique feature of Outwood Academy Hasland Hall is that the Dining Room is shared with Hasland Junior School. This has been a very long standing arrangement which we would like to continue to support. Therefore, we have worked closely with the Junior School to try to find a solution that supports both schools. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Junior School for their support in developing this.

Now we would like to seek your views and comments before putting in place any changes for September 2021.

This proposal is outlined as follows:

1. There would be no loss of learning time as there will still be 5 one-hour teaching periods taught over the course of the day and the academy day will start promptly with period 1 at 8.25am.
2. The academy start time remains the same as it is currently and the finish time supports and allows a full range of enrichment at the end of the day for all students. The finish time would therefore move forward to 2.30pm with enrichment activities running from then until 3.30pm. Importantly, this does not impact negatively on the co-located Junior School.
3. The academy day would move to a rolling programme of staggered lunchtimes, where no more than 2 year groups are on lunch at any one time. To have the whole academy on lunchtime together, as has been done previously before the COVID-19 systems of control were put in this year, is not conducive to creating a climate which is well supervised, safe and provides the best experience for students. Queues are too long, the dining room too cramped, and too many students are stuck outdoors during poor weather.

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

4. Year 7 students would have a separate lunch break from the rest of the academy in their first year to support their transition from primary to secondary school. This allows them to build friendships with their peers and also relieves other issues such as queuing. Until dining room modifications are made, our Year 7 students will use a large portion of the dining room alongside the Junior School students. Some temporary noticeboard screening will act as a screen between the two dining areas but still ensure there is adequate access and exit. To support all students to be able to sit down, it is anticipated that we will have another space set aside for Year 7s to have their sandwiches and 'grab and go' style snacks with space in the main dining hall to get a hot cooked meal. For Years 8 and 10 this additional space will be available also for sandwiches and the opportunity to have a hot meal will be taken alongside the latter part of the Junior School's lunchtime.

5. The planned changes to the seating in the dining room will allow for all students at lunchtime and the vast majority of students at break time, to be able to get a seat. This will mean they can have a warm, indoor, vibrant place to enjoy break and lunch with their friends during the winter months in particular.

6. There are still huge opportunities for enrichment which plays a huge part in what we do at Outwood Academy Hasland Hall. We will run our full programme of enrichment activities from 2.30pm until 3.30pm. This will allow activities across the broad spectrum of subjects as well as subject based academic interventions.

Under the proposal above, lunchtimes would start with Year 7 at 12.00 noon followed by 2 further lunchtimes of 30 minutes at 1.00pm for Years 8 and 10 and 1.30pm for Years 9 and 11. These may, however, be subject to change once timetabling is complete.

Consultation Arrangements

The Scheme of Delegation (available on the academy website) states that the Academy Council (previously known as the Governing Body) should consult on any proposed changes to the academy day. Alongside this, a consultation with parents and carers will be a chance to seek the views of students, staff and other stakeholders. These discussions will run concurrently. If you would like to share your views, please send your comments to enquiries@haslandhall.outwood.com with the title CONSULTATION clearly marked. The consultation period will end at 12pm on Friday 16 July 2021. We will then consider the comments and will inform all stakeholders of the outcome by Monday 19 July 2021 to facilitate any changes that may occur from September 2021.

Yours faithfully



Mr Ian Cooper
Head of School



Mr Steve Roberts
Lead Principal